

The staff newsletter of AJ Engineering and NEWCo

EXPERTISE SAVES CUSTOMER MONEY

A client and their architect for a private new build have been left “delighted” after a team at AJE completed the steelwork on their new home and in turn saved them money.

Led by project manager, James Attridge, AJE was asked to supply 14 tonnes of steel for the property at Westerwoods Farm near Nigg in Easter Ross.

AJE’s role in the project is now complete and James explained, they have been left with a happy customer.

He said: “The steel installation is now complete, and the client and architect are delighted at the finished product. We worked very closely with the customer. Originally, we were to provide galvanised steel. That is what had been specified by the engineer. However, as some of the external steel was going to be visible, we suggested to the customer that they could choose a painted solution for the steel which, particularly on the areas which would be seen, would be more aesthetically pleasing.

“So, the internal steel which won’t be exposed to the elements was coated to a modest C1 corrosion standard whilst the external steel was paint coated to a C5 standard which for an outdoor coastal environment, will stand up to the rigours of the coast in that neck of the woods. Galvanising would have been sufficient for that, but it would have looked quite industrial and more convoluted as it would have to have been painted after it was installed. An industrial finish wasn’t really the look the customer wanted, so we were able to give them an alternative suggestion which ticked all the boxes.”



The Westerwoods private house under construction



The hangar door at Sumburgh Airport

Airport job departs ahead of schedule

THE AJE team flew into Sumburgh Airport Shetland recently and the project was completed two weeks ahead of schedule.

Working on behalf of Ness Engineering who were contracted by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited, the job was to supply and install 25 tonnes of steel to replace very corroded ‘top of door’ runners for 4no large aircraft hangar doors that had been in place for almost 50 years.

The steel was fabricated at AJE’s Waterford site and project was led by James Attridge.

James said: “The job was completed at the start of February and the customer is very pleased with the work and final product.”

It is not the first time that AJE has worked at Sumburgh Airport.

In May 2020, the team worked on three of four hangars. The works involved repairs to hangars one, two and four and hangars one and two were also fitted with new bi-fold doors.

BRIDGE REOPENS AND LEADS TO SECOND ORDER

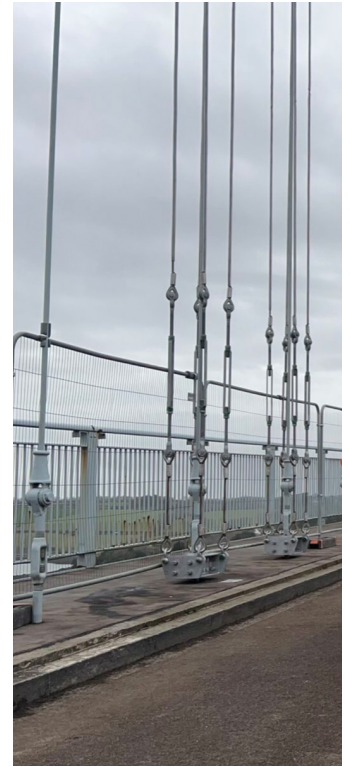
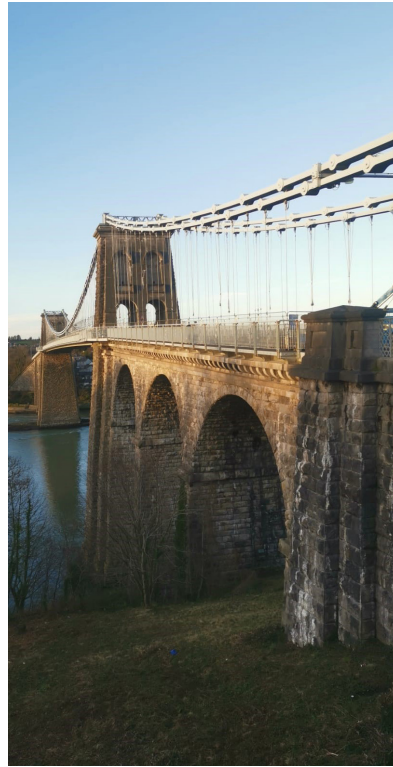
A bridge which was closed for nearly four months, has finally re-opened thanks to important and quick turnaround help from AJE Engineering.

The Menai Bridge in Wales reopened to traffic earlier this month after the bridge - known in Welsh as Pont y Borth - was closed in October amid "serious" public safety concerns.

At the tail end of last year, Spencer Group enlisted the skill of AJE to fabricate a number of parts required in the repair the 200-year-old suspension bridge.

The initial works included the fabrication of over 700 individual parts and as project manager Kevin Smith explained, it all went to plan: "This job required a very quick turnaround from the team here and we were able to fulfil that requirement. Spencer Group actually came back to us to order more parts which has involved the fabrication team at HQ and the CNC shop. This also needed to be done quickly and it looks as though that this second order will actually be completed ahead of schedule."

The closure of the Menai Bridge put extra pressure on the neighbouring Britannia Bridge and increased pressure for a third Menai crossing. However, a new crossing has been ruled out by Lee Waters, the Welsh Government's deputy climate change minister who stated there was no money for such a project.



The Menai Bridge and a look at some of the work AJE has supported

It's all in the detail

A project for a new spaceport is now underway for the AJE team with the detailing work well on its way.

Recently, we told how AJE was working with SaxaVord Spaceport to procure steel for a hangar which is planned for the site on Unst in the Shetland Islands.

In February, SaxaVord announced that construction of the UK's first vertical launch spaceport would begin in March after it received planning approval from Shetland Islands Council.

Now, AJE is working on the detailing of the steel and cladding.

Co-ordinating the project is project manager James Attridge.

He said: "By way of process, this has been a more unusual but understandable approach from the client. AJE has been liaising with the project manager on Unst and we received an early order to procure the steel. This made complete sense as the price of steel was unstable, so we were happy to do this for the customer."

"Now, we have been given the go ahead to proceed with the detailing. It's a challenging programme as the customer's hope is that the project will be complete by the end of this year. We plan to erect the steel in five phases and we want to get phase one, fabrication complete by the end of March. From there, we would hope to be heading to the remote location early May. It involves 320 tonnes of steel."

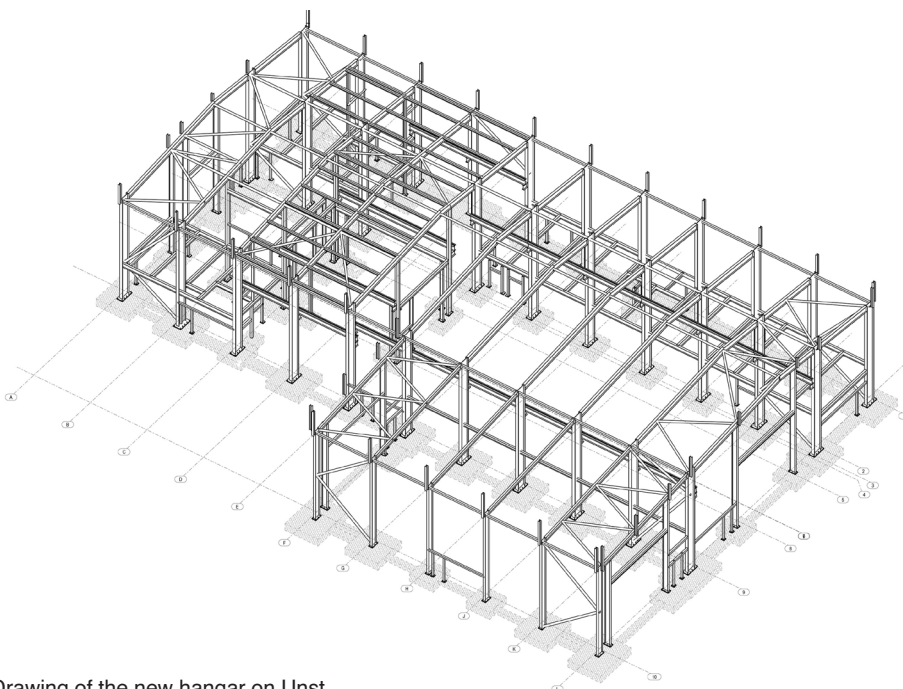
The privately-funded spaceport will consist of three launchpads at the Lamba Ness peninsula in Unst, allowing for the launch of small satellites into either polar or sun-synchronous, low-earth orbits.

SaxaVord have plans to achieve 30 launch events per year and the site will support launches by a range of launch service providers (LSPs) supporting industries and services including telecommunications, media, weather and defence.

In May last year, it was reported that a planning application to demolish the existing SaxaVord Resort accommodation and build a hotel in its place could be submitted by the end of the year.

SaxaVord Spaceport CEO Frank Strang said the budget for the project is now sitting at £60 to £70 million.

The hotel would be used to house people working on space activity, as well as tourists.



Drawing of the new hangar on Unst